

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 RSR-01 /116 W
----- 071695

P R 280649 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7008

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI POUCH

AMEMBASSY DOHA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2263

FROM QUINLAN MUSCAT

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MU PINS

SUBJ: EXECUTIONS OF PFLOAG INSURGENTS

1. LATEST ACCOUNTS OF TRIAL AND EXECUTIONS SOMEWHAT CONFLICTING BUT RADIO OMAN REPORT OF JUNE 20 ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. TOTAL OF 77 REBELS TRIED JUNE 9 AND 10 BY COURT CONSISTING OF EX- MINISTER INTERIOR SAYYID SULTAN, DEPUTY GOVERNOR CAPITAL TERRITORY SAYYID MAJID, TWO QADIS AND CAPTAIN SALIM HAKIM OF OMAN NATIONAL POLICE. CABINET INVITED ATTEND BUT ALL MINISTERS SENT REPRESENTATIVES INSTEAD. BASIS TRIAL WAS NOT SHARIA LAW BUT PROSECUTORS' CHARGES FOLLOWED BY ACCUSED STATEMENTS. SENTENCES DECLARED JUNE 16: 19 TO DEATH, 3 ACQUITTED, AND ALL OTHERS TO SENTENCES FROM LIFE DOWN TO 6 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT.

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2. AFTER EXECUTION SIX MEN BY OMANI MILITARY FIRING SQUAD ON JUNE 19, GROUP OF CABINET MINISTERS SENT APPEAL TO SULTAN FOR CLEMENCY. JUNE 20 ANOTHER FOUR EXECUTED BUT SULTAN COMMUTED REMAINING DEATH SENTENCES TO LIFE, PERHAPS IN RESPONSE MINISTERS' APPEAL. FIRST SIX EXECUTED WERE ALL OMAN ARMY OFFICERS AND NON-COMS. (ONE WAS AL BU SAID BUT FROM RELATED TRIBE AND NOT MEMBER ROYAL FAMILY.)

3. EMBASSY'S ATTEMPTS CANVASS PUBLIC OPINION DISCREETLY YIELDED FEW AND CONFLICTING REACTIONS: MANY OMANIS REPORTED CRITICAL ON GROUNDS POLITICAL EXECUTIONS NOT CUSTOMARY IN OMAN AND FAMILY AND TRIBAL VENGEANCE WOULD BE CALLED UP; OTHERS REPORTED FRIGHTENED INTO SILENCE. USUALLY WELL- INFORMED AMERICAN RESIDENT NEWSMONGER TELLS US PUBLIC PULSE BEATING VERY FAINTLY THESE DAYS. ACCORDING THIRD- PARTY ACCOUNTS, MILITARY AND POLICE OPINION CALLED FOR EXECUTION " THE WHOLE LOT." BRITISH CHARGE SAYS SULTAN RECEIVED NUMBER OF MESSAGES FROM INTERIOR IN ADVANCE OF TRIAL, ALL CALLING FOR MOST SEVERE PENALTY. SINCE EXECUTION NOTHING HEARD FROM INTERIOR OMAN BUT CONSENSUS OF MUSCAT/ MATRAH INTELLIGENTSIA (BUSINESSMEN, CIVIL SERVANTS, TEACHERS) IS THAT EXECUTIONS WERE A MISTAKE, BEING " NON- OMANI CUSTOM." MCCLELLAND

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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